And We Test You With Evil and With Good as Trial

The Companions (may Allah be pleased with them) recognized the blessing that Allah made them Muslims and helped them to meet under the banner of the best of creation, who ruled them based on the Shari'ah of Islam, because they knew Jahiliyyah and its evils. They realized the difference between it and Islam and the good that it brings. Hence, Hudhayfah (may Allah be pleased with him) asked about the possibility that this good turns into evil. The Prophet ﷺ explained to him that this would happen, for the matter of the Muslims after him will fluctuate between good and evil, where the good that will befall them every time is different from others, and so is the evil that will befall them.

Likewise, human life in general is a series of affliction with good and evil, as Allah says: "Every soul will taste death. And We test you with evil and with good as trial; and to Us you will be returned" (Al-Anbiya: 135). As for the successful ones, they thank their Lord, glory be to Him, if He blessed them with good, and they do not rejoice in goodness, to the extent that makes them arrogant and ungrateful. They refrain from using this goodness as a means of disobeying Him and, instead, they use it to approach to Him with obedience in order to maintain it on them. On the other hand, they are patient if their Lord curses them with evil, and they ask Him to remove it from them, and they use this to approach Him with obedience to change their condition to good. As for those who do otherwise, they will inevitably doom themselves, as Allah says: "Indeed, your efforts are diverse. As for he who gives and fears Allah and believes in the best [reward], We will ease him toward ease. But as for he who withholds and considers himself free of need and denies the best [reward], We will ease him toward difficulty" (Al-Layl: 10-4).

The situation Muslims live in cannot be described as completely good sometimes. Rather, some doors of good open doors to evil, and some doors of evil open doors for good. Muslims, in the event of their hardship and the oppression of the enemies over them, return to their religion, adhere to their group, keen on carrying out their jihad, ascetic in this world and seeking the Hereafter, so their souls are strengthened, their arms hardened, and Allah subdues their enemy at their hands. And thus He brings them out of a state of hardship and evil to a state of prosperity and goodness after He grants them victory.

And when the world opens up for them, they start to show luxury, they are keen for fleeting possessions, of wealth, dignity, leadership, followers, and others, and they compete for that, and fight for that. Thus, their gathering disperses, and their jihad weakens. Then, they are soon afflicted by their enemy, and they are overcome by evil until they return to their religion, and carry out the rightful jihad for the sake of Allah.

The confirmation of that came in a multitude of evidence, among which are the words of the Prophet ﷺ : "By Allah, it is not poverty that I fear for you, but I fear that this world will be opened up with its wealth for you as it was opened to those before you; and you vie with one another over it as they did and eventually it will ruin you as it ruined them." [Agreed upon]. And there are other Ayat and Hadiths.

We have seen similar to that in the life of the mujahidin during the past years. They started their jihad while they were few weak men who fear that people will hurt them and hypocrites mock their jihad, and they were patient while carrying out their jihad and the bore the cruelty of their battle with their enemies, and the Muslims' letting them down, until Allah defeated the crusader army of America at their hands and enabled them on earth. Then, they declared the establishment of the Islamic State in Iraq, and began ruling with the Shari'ah of Allah on the land. Then, the Sahawat appeared, the treacherous factions, and the mujahidin ended up either killed, imprisoned, or fugitives.

Their condition continued for years until Allah conquered large areas of Sham and Iraq and enabled them over these areas more than they had been before. They declared the establishment of the religion and the return of the Islamic Khilafah. The mujahidin joined them from the east and west of the earth, until the flag of the Islamic State was flying in all parts, and the operations of its soldiers hit the mushrikin in all corners of the earth.

Then, the kuffar and murtaddin of all sects allied together, but the Khilafah soldiers fought them to protect their religion, themselves, and their honor, in a heroic battle, despite their small number and the weakness of their equipment, until Allah accomplished a matter already ordained.

All that and what came after it, including death, imprisonment, and injury among the affliction of evil, which we are certain will be followed by a new granting of goodness with which Allah will bless His servants. It will be a greater conquest and greater empowerment on earth, and more people will enter into the jama'at of Muslims. Allah will see from His servants - by His permission - what He loves, which is being grateful for the grace and using what Allah gives them in obeying Him, the same way He saw from them, when they praised Him and were patient amid the affliction with evil, adhering to their religion and holding tight to the tawhid by the grace of Allah.